Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 1, line 23 and ending at line 27, to read as follows:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS:

A Continuation-In-Part of U.S. ~~Application No. 09/679,359, filed October 5, 2000~~ Patent No. 6,764,108, issued July 20, 2004, which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Application No. 09/679,359, filed October 5, 2000, now abandoned, which claims priority of Argentina P99 01 06162, filed December 3, 1999.

Please amend paragraph **[0004]** as follows:

[0004] Various thread and shoulder arrangements are discussed in the prior art with respect to joining together oil well drill pipe, well casing and tubing. See, for example, Pfeiffer et al. (US Patent No. 4, 955,644); Carstenson (US Patent No. 5,895,079), Gandy (US Patent No. 5,906,400), Mithoff (US Patent No. 262,086), Blose (US Patent No. 4,600,225), Watts (US Patent Nos. 5,427,418; 4,813,717; 4,750,761), ~~Shock et al.~~ Schock et al. (US Patent No. 6,030,004), and Hardy et al. (US Patent No. 3,054,628). The Watts patents imply that a pre-1986 API standard for strings of casing and tubing was a straight thread, with a turned down collar and that his improvement comprised a flush joint tubular connection with both tapered threads and a shoulder torque. Watts also refer to API standards for tubing and casing where triangular and buttress threads can be used with a torque shoulder. The 1990 patent to Pfeiffer et al, and the 1996 patent to Carstensen et al, in contrast, refer to a more current API standard (truncated triangular thread, connection using a torque shoulder) for strings of casing and tubing that appears to involve frusto-conical threads and shoulders. Carstensen et al at col 7, line 9+ include a discussion about

how a particular conical gradient and length of a thread defines stress distribution results. Likewise, Pfeiffer et al at col 2, line 51+ say their threads are tapered and according to "API standards" with their improvement essentially only having to do with transitional dimensions. Hence, the problem addressed by Pfeiffer is an assembly of drill pipe sections where it apparently was critical to use a compatible and standard non-differential thread according to API standards, and also with no incomplete threads and no torque shoulder specification. The main features of the Pfeiffer thread appear to be symmetrical, truncated triangle threads (between 4 and 6 threads per inch, 60° flank angle) and a thread height that is the same for the male and female thread (between 1.42 and 3.75 mm). Also, there is identical nominal taper on male and female ends (between 0.125 and 0.25). Shock et al. illustrate a particular tool joint for drill pipe where the unexpected advantage for drill pipe applications derives from tapered threads that significantly must be very coarse (3 1/2 threads per inch) and have equal angle (75°) thread flanks and elliptical root surfaces.